

Boxers Possessing Defensive Skill and Ability to Hit Hard Have Made Greatest Strides in Pugilistic Field

MODERN PUGILISTS
DIVIDED INTO 3
DISTINCT TYPESLight Hitters, but Clever Boxers:
Knockout Hitters
and Sluggers.YOUNG GRIFFO MASTER
OF DEFENSIVE SKILL.

By THE VETERAN.

From the time of Figg to the present fighters have been three distinct types: the man possessing defensive skill, who depends on quickness of foot, eye, head and hands to prevent an opponent inflicting damage, and at the same time delivers sufficient punishment to enable him to win his contest; the fighter with enough boxing ability to successfully avoid attack, and with hitting power necessary to bring an adversary to the floor in disabled condition; and the fighter who makes no pretence of sparing and trusts to a heavy attack to bring victory.

As classified in the modern ring these men are light hitters, but clever boxers; fairly good boxers and knockout hitters; sluggers without boxing skill.

As has been the case in all branches of sport the boxer has arrived at his present stage of efficiency as the result of evolution. Unquestionably the first men to enter the ring were almost entirely devoid of boxing science and relied entirely on strength, endurance and heavy hitting, and as in the early days of the game they fought with bare hands the combats were certainly brutal and deserved the annoying attentions of the authorities.

Gradually boxing skill entered into the contests, and by the time the padded glove took the place of bare knuckles boxing had become a scientific form of contest devoid of many of the objectionable features that marked the days of the London rules.

Scientific Progress.

As the sport stands to-day it compares favorably with several of the rough forms of sport as to humane rules and fairness, and is much superior in these respects to some popular pastimes that can be mentioned.

With the improvement in the conditions under which boxing was conducted the leading performers have made large strides in science, and to-day a proportion of clever boxers is much greater than at any time in the history of the sport.

By that I mean that, considering the great number of men now engaged in boxing as a business the proportion of clever men is much larger than at any time since the sport came into existence. Every preliminary boy now has a chance to see the best boxers in action because of the general spread of the sport and the facilities for witnessing good boxing. Whereas in the olden days the matching of two crack boxers was a rare event and only a favored few were permitted to witness the contest.

However, in spite of the growth of scientific skill, the dispute as to which is the better style of fighting continues now as hotly as in the days of the ancient gladiators.

So far as the general run of patrons of boxing is concerned they show a decided preference for the heavy hitter, the man who can bring a contest to a spectacular close with a terrific punch delivered in the early rounds of a bout. Recollections of these feats are what keep green the memories of gladiators like Heenan, Sullivan, Peter Jackson, Fitzsimmons, Ketchel, McDevore and others of that type.

Object to Brutality.

At the same time there is a large and growing class of ring patrons who are strongly opposed to brutality and who much prefer a clean, scientific boxing bout.

There is small question that the most satisfactory small performers are those men who not only have a reasonable amount of boxing science but in addition ability to punch with stunning power.

That this type of fighter will eventually predominate there is small doubt, for the purely defensive boxer becomes irksome in his caution if opposed by a dangerous hitter, and the heavy punchers are too often completely baffled by the clever sparrer.

Therefore the fighters who can both box and hit appear to furnish the most satisfactory contests from the spectators' viewpoint.

There is also good reason to believe that a combination of boxing and hitting ability is calculated to take a boxer further along the road to success than pure defensive tactics or dependence solely on punching power.

Representative Types.

In order to illustrate the point I have divided the leading boxers of the past fifty years into three classes, as follows:

CLEVER BOXERS

Jim Corbett
Fred Goetz
Jim DeLoach
Abdulla
Levinson
Young Griffio
McFarland
Kid Lewis

HEAVY HITTERS

Heenan
Sullivan
Fitzsimmons
McDevore
Ketchel
Pacque
Klanke
Laurie
Nelson

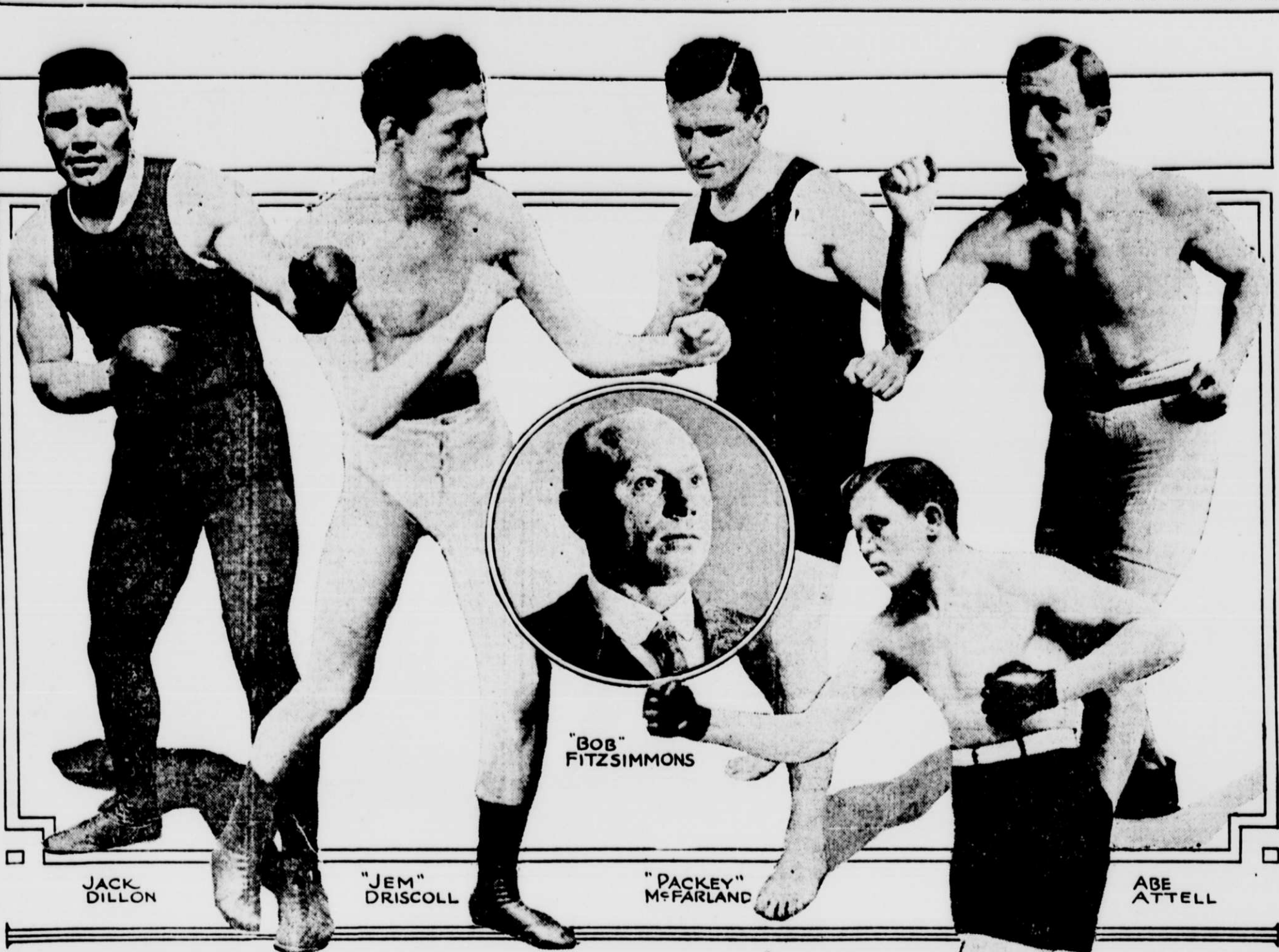
CHAMPIONS

While there are many others who could be included in the classifications, still the selections made are representative and give a fair idea of the calibre of the men in the different divisions of boxing skill.

It should be concluded that the men who combine defensive skill with hitting ability have captured more titles than either of the other types of fighters, and that they have defended their championships successfully for longer periods of time than either the clever sparrers or the heavy punchers.

There are, of course, many excellent reasons to account for the length of time a boxer holds a title. Take the case of Sullivan, who was heavyweight champion of America for ten years. The only reason that Sullivan was able to stick to his title for a decade was that he absolutely declined to meet any one of four men who would have defeated him. These men were Peter Jackson,

GROUP OF NOTED PUGILISTS WHO REPRESENT DISTINCT TYPES IN CLASSIFICATION OF BOXERS



JACK DILLON

"JEM" DRISCOLL

"BOB" FITZSIMMONS

"PACQUE" MCFARLAND

ABE ATTELL

GEORGE CHIP

EXCITING CUE TILTS
ARE DE ORO'S FORTEVeteran Billiardist Has Come
Through in Many a Hair-
Raising Finish.

Alfred De Oro, the Cuban cueist who has challenged for the three-cushion billiard championship, has been in more hair-raising finishes in the three-cushion billiard game than any other player now competing for the title. In some of them he was on the winning side and in others on the losing side.

One of the most thrilling three-cushion championship matches he ever won was from Thomas Huston in Chicago in May, 1909. Huston, who was a pupil of Jerome R. Keogh, of Rochester, was at that time generally considered one of the best three-cushion and pocket billiard players in the country. He held the three-rail title and was challenged by De Oro. They met in Charlie Weighman's room in Chicago in a three-night match of 150 points for the championship.

Huston showed the way to De Oro from the start to near the finish. The score was 147 for Huston and 150 for De Oro. Spectators were offering 10 to 1 that Huston would win. There were no takers. The Cuban then started to pick up. He made a run of 6 and his backers took heart. Huston kept missing, finding it impossible to connect with any of De Oro's safe leaves. Amid great excitement the man from Cuba tied the score at 147. Then Huston made one. The score was 148 to 147 and the spectators were in a frenzy of excitement. De Oro finally ran his three points and won, 150 to 148. He had made 20 points while Huston was getting 0.

In a three-cushion match with John Daly in New York a few years later De Oro got a dose of his own medicine. He was defeated by 2 points, Daly making up a deficit of 13 points the last night in another championship match. In Denver three years ago De Oro was defeated by Joe Carney, 150 to 148, Carney making up a deficit of 12 points on his last night.

EIGHTH PERIOD DECIDES IT.

Milburn and Stoddard Hit Goals That Beat Ramsey's Team.

HEMPSTEAD, L. J., July 15.—Picked polo teams captained by Devereux Milburn and C. C. Ramsey played a special match on the international field at the Polo Grounds today. The match was for the players who leave next week for the tournament at Narragansett Pier. Milburn's team, which included G. M. Heeksher, J. M. Waterbury, Jr., and L. E. Stoddard, beat Ramsey's team, including F. S. Von Stede, Malcolm Stevenson and W. G. Low, by 5 goals to 3.

The teams were tied at 4 goals each after seven periods of play. The eighth was full of action. Each side made a safety, and the game was won by angle from the mallets of Stoddard and Milburn.

COX OUTPOINTS BRENNAN.

Missouri Led Has Better of Eight Rounds of Fast Bout.

Joe Cox of Springfield, Mo., outpointed Bill Brennan of Chicago last night in a fast and interesting bout in the Broadway Sporting Club of Brooklyn. Cox outboxed the Chicago slugger in eight of the ten rounds. In the eighth round Brennan staggered his opponent with a right hand to the jaw. In the last round Brennan rushed after his opponent and by landing several hard blows, including a right to the jaw, had Cox in bad shape.

FRANKIE DALY VICTOR.

Frankie Daly outpointed Billy Fitzsimmons in the main event at the Fairmont in the C. C. in Brooklyn last night.

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SPORTING GOSSIP
By TOM McNULTY

Clubbly Cholly Murphy OPENLY is in organized baseball again. George, Tener better rest all ball and prepare for storms. Cholly Cholly can make more money as a manager than as a player. Where was Cholly playing last night? He was in the Mothers League.

The vacation fever seems to be hitting everybody. Anyway Jack Dillon and Battling Levinsky promise they will not fight again for a while.

Hughie Jennings has signed up a southpaw named Tanker. Shades of Babe Waddell!

The St. Louis Browns will win the pennant the year Freddie Welsh meets Benjie Leonard in a bout with a referee's decision.

Some of my new friends apparently do not know the rules of this column. If they will pay attention to the following they will save themselves much unnecessary trouble. No questions on credit and religion will be noticed.

You expect to see my questions answered write them plainly on one side of the paper. My inquisitive friends must wait their turn. As many queries as space will permit will be answered daily, but I cannot guarantee that I will answer all of them. I want to leave answers on fact, not opinion.

Dear Tom—(1) If Willie Ritchie and Leach Cross were fighting, and Ritchie struck Cross with his left hand, and if Leach would throw his right hand at Ritchie, would Leach win the bout on his own merits? (2) Did Jimmie Smith, Joe Carpenter in the same way, although they say Carpenter had his knees off the floor? C. K. AND W.

(1) Yes. (2) Yes.

Dear Tom—Did Tom Cowley and Frank Moran ever fight in England, and if so, what were the results? A. C. W.

Moran knocked out Cowley in sixth round in London, England, on October 9, 1911.

Dear Tom—A says that Cincinnati went through a season without losing a game. B says No. Who is right?

The old Cincinnati Red Stockings, before the days of Organized Baseball, never lost a game without a defeat. They had a clean slate in 1869, and played through till June 14, 1870, before the Athletics of Brooklyn broke their winning streak.

Dear Tom—Will you kindly let me know if Johnny Dundee and Jack Britton ever fought? J. G. GREGG.

No.

Dear Tom—Was it that got the decision by the majority of newspapers in the last Leonard vs. Dundee bout?

Leonard.

Dear Tom—Where are the Bowls and Laurel racetracks located?

Both in Maryland, about eighteen miles from Washington.

Stecher and Lewis Still
Looking for Their PayOmaha Promoter Sets a Fine Example in Refusing to
Settle Up Until Wrestlers Resume Their
Bout and Reach Decision.

By CROSS COUNTRY.

It may be merely a plain case of retribution or it may be a burning indignity to a brace of honest, hard working grapplers. In any event, the refusal of the promoter of the Stecher-Lewis contest at Omaha to hand them their compensation after they had tussled for five long hours on the mat without either coming anywhere near a fall is sure to arouse widespread interest. The general impression is that wrestlers invariably get large parcels of coin of the realm without having done anything more to earn it than a few fancy head spins and flying falls. But here comes a promoter, by name Melady, and declines to give a penny to the exhausted athletes for the reason that neither had made the slightest impression on his opponent.

Stecher and Lewis, their voices choked with emotion, set forth that they had even wrestled by automobile lamp in light in order to give the onlookers a run for their money, but the promoter was obdurate and said they would have to get on the mat and finish the contest or neither would get a cent of the \$18,000 that is in bank to be divided between them when they again meet in a contest with a decisive result.

If the example of Melady is to be followed by other promoters, it is to be feared that the leading grapplers of this fair land of liberty will refuse to sign articles for mat contests and will return to their original occupations as pilots of beer wagons.

It is about time the nimble press agents abandoned the effort to convince the dear public that "Young Shanks and Kid Straw, being deadly enemies in private life, are going to settle their differences in a six round whirlwind battle at the Soakem A. C."

This is quite as thrilling, though not so spectacular, as the wedding in the lions' den by the circus performers who astonish the natives in the one night stands.

The "grudge" fight game, the design of which is to draw a crowd, and which degrades boxing by a deception, for there is no more grudge between boxers than there is between ball players or the men engaged in any other branch of rough sport.

Boxing is now a business the same as baseball, football, hockey or any other game in which people pay money. The boxer is the last man in the world who can afford to harbor a grudge, for he has all the trouble he can possibly ask for in the bout for which he is paid. Where was Humphreys playing last night? He was in the Mothers League.

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